

SLAIN MAN'S FAMILY REJECTS PLEA BARGAIN

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, January 28, 1986

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

The parents of a man **slain** during the 1984 World Series victory celebration vetoed a proposed **plea bargain** Monday that would have made the Detroit teenager accused of the killing eligible for parole in 12 years.

"No way," Carl Dobrzynski angrily told Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Joseph Koch when Koch relayed an offer in which William (Chick) Bryant would plead guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder with a life sentence and to a charge of using a firearm in committing a felony.

Bryant, 17, is charged with first-degree murder in the Oct. 14, 1984, slaying of Raymond Dobrzynski, a 27-year-old microbiologist from Ypsilanti. Dobrzynski was shot to death in his car outside the Lafayette Coney Island restaurant during the wild street celebrations in the wake of the Detroit Tigers' World Series victory.

The Prosecutor's Office decided not to pursue a negotiated settlement against the **family**'s wishes, Koch said.

If convicted of the more serious murder charge, Bryant -- who was a juvenile at the time of the killing -- would face a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Under Michigan law, a life sentence for second-degree murder can be reviewed for parole in 10 years. The firearm count carries a mandatory two-year sentence that must be served before another sentence begins.

Defense attorney W. Otis Culpepper also lost a last-minute bid to have Bryant's trial heard by a jury, after earlier electing a bench trial before Recorder's Court Judge Vera Massey Jones.

Jones, saying she believed Culpepper was "judge-shopping," said: "I am convinced this is simply a delaying tactic or a tactic to get somewhere else."

In testimony before Jones, Gabriel Timmons said he and Bryant were among friends who went downtown to join the celebration. Bryant, who was carrying a semiautomatic pistol, said he was going to steal a car, Timmons testified.

"I said he could go ahead on and get a car; I was going home," Timmons said.

After starting on foot for his home, he looked back to see Bryant shooting into a car, Timmons testified.

The next day Bryant said he shot "because the guy didn't get out of the car," Timmons testified.

CUTLINE

Dobrzynski

Caption: Photo

Memo: SEE ALSO STATE EDITION PAGE 3A

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A;

Index Terms: MURDER ; TRIAL

Record Number: 8601040946

Copyright (c) 1986 Detroit Free Press